Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian

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1 Overview

Language family: Indo-European (Slavic)

Countries: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia

Number of speakers: 21 million Agreement features: number, person

Attested word orders: SV **Coordination types:** and, or

(The data were entered by a native speaker from Serbia via an online survey.)

2 Patterns for number

2.1 Coordination with "and"

2.1.1 SV order

Pattern: The number on the verb is plural in all cases.

1st conjunct	2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg		pl	pl
pl		pl	pl

Examples:

- (1) Dečak i muškarac trče. boy.SG and man.SG run.3PL 'The boy and the man run.'
- (2) a. Dečaci i muškarac trče. boy.PL and man.SG run.3PL 'The boys and the man run.'
 - b. Dečak i muškarci trče. boy.SG and man.PL run.3PL 'The boy and the men run.'

2.2 Coordination with "or"

2.2.1 SV order

Pattern: The number on the verb is plural in all cases.

1st conjunct	2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg		pl	pl
pl		pl	pl

Examples:

- (3) Dečak ili muškarac trče. boy.SG or man.SG run.3PL 'The boy or the man run.'
- (4) a. Dečaci ili muškarac trče. boy.PL or man.SG run.3PL 'The boys or the man run.'
 - b. Dečak ili muškarci trče. boy.SG or man.PL run.3PL 'The boy or the men run.'

3 Patterns for person

3.1 Coordination with "and"

3.1.1 SV order

Pattern: Person seems to follow a hierarchy. (If there is a first person conjunct, the verb is marked for first person. (Number is resolved to plural.)

2nd conjunct 1st conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	1pl		
3	1pl		

Examples:

- (5) a. Ti i ja trčimo. you and I run.1PL 'You and I run.'
 - b. Ja i ti trčimo. I and you run.1PL 'I and you run.'
- (6) a. Mi i oni trčimo. we and they run.1PL 'We and they run.'
 - b. Oni i mi trčimo. they and we run.1PL 'They and we run.'

3.2 Coordination with "or"

3.2.1 SV order

Pattern: In combinations of 1st and 2nd person, person is resolved to first person; in combinations of 1st and 3rd person, there is closest conjunct agreement.

2nd conjunct	nct 1	2	3
1		1pl	3pl
2	1pl		
3	1pl		

Examples:

- (7) a. Ti ili ja trčimo. you or I run.1PL 'You or I run.'
 - b. Ja ili ti trčimo. I or you run.1PL 'I or you run.'

- (8) a. Mi ili oni trče.
 we or they run.3PL
 'We or they run.'
 b. Oni ili mi trčimo.
 - b. Oni ili mi trčimo. they or we run.1PL 'They or we run.'